

NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA, WARD BUILDING  
(Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Building 10)  
South side of Facilities Terrace, Naval Hospital Philadelphia  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6206-C

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
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200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### NAVAL HOSPITAL PHILADELPHIA, WARD BUILDING

(Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Building 10) HABS No. PA-6206-C

Location: South side of Facilities Terrace, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

USGS Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Quadrangle

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.484740.4417340

Significance: Erected circa 1941, Building 10 documents Naval Hospital Philadelphia's pre-World War II planning and its rapid expansion immediately following the United States' entry into the war in late 1941. The building and its adjoining wards, Buildings 11 and 12, are significant as representatives of the utilitarian structures erected at the Hospital during the early 1940s to accommodate the expected surge in patient loads.

Description: Building 10 consists of a one-story, gable-roofed H-shaped frame structure with a one-story, gable-roofed corridor adjoining its south gable ends and connecting the building with additional wards of similar size, shape, and materials located to its east (Buildings 11 and 12). Homosote sheets cover the area between the building's sills and the grade below, hiding the foundation's concrete piers. Asphalt shingles cover the building's roofs, and german siding sheathes its exterior walls. Exposed rafter feet ornament the structure's eaves. Metal louvers ventilate the peaks of both north gable ends. Wooden six-over-six sash covered with aluminum storm sash occupy the structure's window openings. Exterior door openings feature paired wooden panel doors with six upper lights and a five-light transom; a wooden panel door with nine upper lights; and metal slab doors, both with and without lights. Some former door and window openings are covered with plywood sheets. The building measures 218 feet long, 126 feet wide, and 16 feet high.

Two elongated wards, each forming a wing a total of 22 bays wide, extend northward from the southern, one-bay-wide corridor and form the vertical arms and legs of the H-plan. The western elongated ward features a one-bay-deep, gable-roofed, enclosed entry composing its tenth, eleventh, and twelfth bays north of the southern corridor. Paired windows flank the porch's centrally located door. A three-bay-wide by one-bay-deep, hipped-roofed enclosed porch occupies nearly the full width of the western ward's north gable end. Triple windows flank the north porch's central door opening, which is covered with plywood sheets. The eastern elongated ward of Building 10 is a mirror image of the western ward. A four-bay-wide, gable-roofed structure matching the west porch's width and placement joins Building 10's two elongated wards at their mid-section and composes the H's hyphen. The interior courtyard enclosed by Building 10's two elongated wards, the hyphen, and the southern corridor features small enclosed rooms in the ells formed by the wards and

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the southern corridor. A smaller one-story frame corridor extends eastward from the eastern elongated ward's east porch and connects to the adjacent Building 11. A concrete block wall interrupting the smaller corridor's five-bay-wide northern and southern elevations forms a fire wall between the two buildings. Double-leaf metal doors occupy the southern corridor's western elevation and a second entrance in the west end of the corridor's southern elevation. This second entrance displays paint scars surviving from an earlier passageway that connected the ward buildings with the main hospital building (Building 1; HABS No. PA-6206-A).

Although remodeled for use as a carpentry shop in the mid-1950s with modern wall and ceiling coverings, floor space within Building 10 for the most part still reflects its use as a medical ward. The south end of the western elongated ward contains two rooms with adjoining bathrooms on the west side of the central corridor and four rooms on the corridor's east side. A wall blocks passage from the corridor into the northern portion of the western ward. The south end of the eastern elongated ward features one large room, an open workshop area, on the west side of its central corridor and two rooms on the east side. Double-leaf metal doors enclose both ends of the corridor. The northern of the two doorways provides access to the eastern ward's workshop area. The shop area features workbenches and storage cabinets installed throughout the room. A security fence and gate block access into the northern portion of the eastern ward, which contains a central corridor flanked by rooms. These rooms contain wooden panel doors with nine upper lights and walling composed of panels and wire-glass fixed windows.

The hyphen leading westward from the large central room to the western ward of Building 10 features a double-loaded central corridor. Offices, an equipment room, and a washroom occupy the northern spaces off the hyphen's corridor. The southern rooms of the hyphen contain bathroom facilities. The hyphen enters the western ward's large open workshop area, of similar dimensions to the eastern ward's workshop and also containing workbenches and storage cabinets. A large metal sliding door in the northern portion of the western ward closes off the workshop area from additional offices located on the west side of a central corridor, a large spray-painting booth, and large metal tubs standing on the east side of the corridor, which are used for dipping or coating materials.

The southern rooms and the associated corridors of both elongated wards exhibit drop ceilings, vinyl tile and rug floor coverings, and modern plywood wall paneling. The workshop areas, the northern rooms of the two wards, and the hyphen display ceiling tiles attached to the underside of the ceiling joists that hide the roof framing, plasterboard walling, and tongue-and-groove plank flooring. Water infiltration and

neglect over the six years since the building's abandonment have contributed to extensive damage of Building 10's walling, flooring, and ceilings.

History:

Philadelphia-based architect George W. Pepper completed plans for additional barracks and ward buildings at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, including Buildings 10, 11, and 12, in November 1941. The plot plan for these additional buildings labeled the structures as "Type H-4 General Medical Wards," probably referring to Navy standard plans or specifications for hospital wards (Bureau of Yards & Docks Drawing No. 182128).

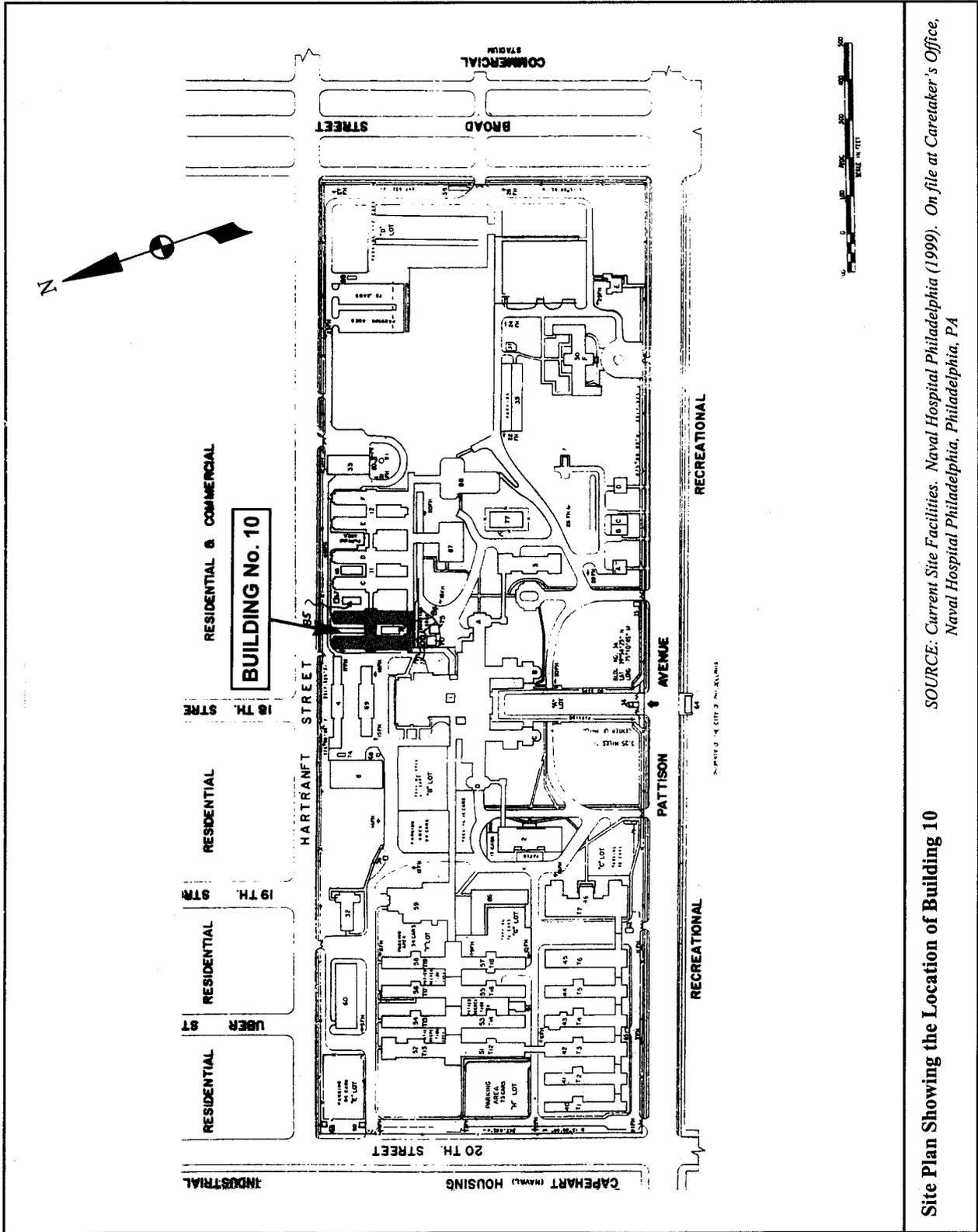
As originally designed, the two elongated wards composing Building 10 featured double-loaded central corridors at their north and south ends separated by a broad open ward area capable of holding 26 beds. As depicted on Bureau of Yards & Docks Drawing No. 182155, the rooms in the south ends included an office and a nurses' room, both with adjoining heads or bathrooms, a small "Diet Kitchen," and a dressing room. Several "Quiet" rooms, a storage room, a linen room, and a "Bag" room flanked the north end corridors. Washrooms with showers and adjacent baths, and other head facilities for convalescing patients, occupied the north and south sides of a passage in the hyphen joining the two elongated wards. Each of the elongated wards also possessed enclosed porches on their end elevations and on the side elevation opposite the connecting hyphen. Nurses' stations occupied the wall opposite the hyphen between vestibules that provide access to Building 10's east and west porches. Smaller enclosed porches were located alongside the kitchens. The design also shows a small corridor connecting Building 10 with Building 11 through the hyphen's eastern elevation porch.

Prior to the building's construction, the Navy revised their plans for the wards and had Pepper add the connecting corridor to join the three ward buildings along their southern elevations (Bureau of Yards & Docks Drawing No. 182128). This corridor consumed the south gable end's enclosed porches, shown on Building 10's original floor plan. Simultaneously, the Navy directed Pepper to add a second passageway extending westward from the southern corridor to connect the wards with the ground-level story of the north T-shaped wing of Building 1, the main hospital building (HABS No. PA-6206-A). In 1947, the Navy dismantled this second passage and re-used much of its material to build another passage that joined Building 10 with the northeast wing of Building 1 (Bureau of Yards & Docks Drawing No. 447074). The Navy demolished this second link between Building 10 and Building 1 in May 1996. In 1955 the Navy converted Building 10's wards into carpentry shops, a function that it retained until the Hospital's closing in 1993.

Sources: U.S. Department of the Navy, Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Cultural Resources Survey Form, Buildings 10 through 12, Naval Hospital Philadelphia. Prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1993.

Original architectural and engineering drawings, Bureau of Yards & Docks Nos. 182128 through 182168 (1944). On file at Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Historian: Stuart Paul Dixon, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., September 1999



Site Plan Showing the Location of Building 10

SOURCE: Current Site Facilities. Naval Hospital Philadelphia (1999). On file at Caretaker's Office, Naval Hospital Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA